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DOCKET NO.: 4293

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Masaaki HARASAWA et al.

| ART UNIT: 2839

USSN: 10/017,983

| CONFIRMATION NO. 8381

FILED: December 13, 2001

| EX.: S. V. Nguyen

FOR: Electric Connector

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX RESPONSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

August 9, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 1.97(c)(1) AND 1.97(e)(2)

Dear Sir:

- 1) This is **NOT** a Response to the Office Action of August 2, 2002. A Response will be filed in due course.
- 2) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 applicants enclose a Third Form PTO-1449 and copies of the references listed thereon.
- 3) In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(1), this Statement is being filed before the issuance of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, and includes the required certification. Thus, no fee is due.
- 4) The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than

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three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

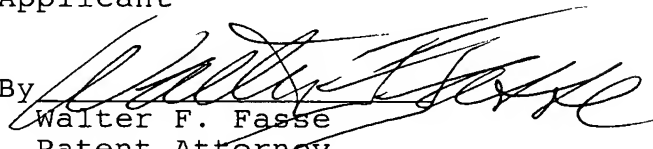
- 5) The present references were cited in Office Actions in U. S. Application Nos. 10/017,977 and 10/017,987. The Office Action in 10/017,977 was mailed on July 19, 2002 and received by the undersigned attorney on July 25, 2002; and the Office Action in 10/017,987 was mailed on May 3, 2002 and received by the undersigned attorney on May 9, 2002. Due to similarities of the subject matter of U. S. Applications 10/017,977, 10/017,987 and the present application, the references should also be considered for possible materiality to the present application.
- 6) References AD to AJ are in English. Therefore no further discussion of the references is required.
- 7) Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider all references of record, return an initialled copy of the enclosed Third Form PTO-1449 and ensure that all references of record are printed on any patent issuing from this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Masaaki HARASAWA et al.
Applicant

WFF:ar/4293
Enclosure: postcard,
Form PTO-1449,
7 references

By


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Anita Morse - August 9, 2002
Anita Morse - August 9, 2002